

RURAL SANITARY AUTHORITY,
BRIDGNORTH DISTRICT.

A. BETHELL,
MEDICAL OFFICER
OF HEALTH.

Gentlemen/ I beg to hand you my annual report for the year ending Dec 31. 1898.

Table (A.) annexed contains a detailed account of all deaths; they total 110 or 12.2 per 1,000. Under five years 30 deaths or 3.3 per 1,000. There was one death from diphtheria, one Purperal fever, and one from Whooping cough. There were 44 deaths occurring among people over 65 years proving that a large majority live to a good age in this district.

Table B. shows that 13 cases of scarlet fever have been notified, 6 cases of diphtheria, 1 case of purperal fever, 2 cases of erysipelas. Five cases of scarlet fever came from a woman wilfully bringing her child from Shrewsbury during the

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infectious stage. She was prosecuted and convicted for this offence at Shrewsbury.

Last year I recommended that all milk sellers should be registered; this has been done and their premises visited. The result of these inspections has proved that the state of them was, in the majority of instances, far behind a satisfactory sanitary standard. They will now be periodically inspected and made to keep up with the requirements of the times. I must add that recent investigations into the cause of consumption being so prevalent among children seems largely due to our bad milk supply. Therefore it is highly important, that all people who sell milk should keep their cows under healthy conditions.

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Water Supply.

You have recently received a long communication from the County Medical Officer of Health. I need therefore make no comments on this subject; except that during the last year the drought has caused great inconvenience in this district, but, as far as I know, no illness has arisen from it.

Closing of Schools.

During the past year Alosley school was closed for a short time on account of Influenza, and a second time on account of Measles. Quatt school was also closed for measles. Ditton Priors school for scarlet fever, and Chelmarsh school for whooping cough.

Last year I asked that bacteriological examination of suspected cases of diphtheria should be made at the public expense. One case was sent up,



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and proved that the case was not diphtheria, thus, at once, I was able to relieve the minds of all connected with the case.

During the past year the portion of Alveley village which had no drainage has been attended to; the rest of the village is still as it was. There is an open drain running down the village of Claverly; this ought to be done away with by a proper public sewer.

The following table shows the amount of work done by the Inspector of Nuisances. On several occasions, during the year, I have made special journeys to places he has had to call my attention to. In all cases something was decidedly wrong. Unfortunately, the majority of people look upon

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Sanitary Inspector as their natural enemy, and are apt to put off doing what is absolutely necessary till they are threatened with proceedings. This only makes matters worse. It seems to me, that if owners of property would only take the Sanitary Authority a little more into their confidence, they would find it beneficial to both parties.

Taking the whole ~~district~~^{year} into consideration, I think the district ought to congratulate itself on such a healthy year.

Summary of Sanitary Work for the year 1893-1894
furnished by the Medical Officers of Health and embodying
the information obtained from the Inspectors.

Number of Houses which have been inspected during the year,
either in connection with outbreaks of infectious disease, or in
consequence of complaints or in the course of a
systematic sanitary survey. 340

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Total number of notices of all kinds served,
including both formal and informal notices } 142.
Approximate number of such notices complied with. 122.

Particulars of Sanitary matters referred
to in the above notices.

- | | |
|---|-----|
| (A.) Houses to be disinfected after infectious disease. | 0. |
| (B.) Deficient or objectionable water supply. | 20. |
| (C.) New drains to be constructed or old drains to be amended. | 93. |
| (D.) New closets to be provided, or old ones to be amended
in construction. | 98. |
| (E.) Houses damp or dirty or admitting rain or weather
or otherwise in a bad sanitary condition. | 8. |
| (F.) Offensive accumulations of all kinds. | 26. |
| (G.) Animals so kept as to be a nuisance. | 7. |
| (H.) Houses overcrowded. | 4. |

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Number of cases in which proceedings before magistrates
have been taken for failure to comply with any
of the above notices. _____ } 0.

- (a) Exposure of bad meat for sale. 0.
- (b.) Public exposure of infected persons or things. 1.
- (c.) Offensive against By-laws and Regulations
relating either to Lodging Houses, Slaughterhouses,
Dairies and Milkshops. etc. } 0.
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